

Kaufman '00 wins presidency

By Deborah Bauer
YDN Staff Reporter

Pulling in more than two times the number of votes of his nearest competitor, Zach Kaufman '00, won the race for the Yale College Council Presidency.

Last week, 49.1 percent of the 2,442 undergrads who participated in the YCC elections voted for Kaufman, one of the six candidates running for president.

"All of the YCC officer candidates had fantastic ideas," Kaufman said. "We look forward to pursuing these ideas and working with all of these talented individuals to improve student life at Yale."

This year, 46.2 percent of students hit the polls to support their favorite candidates.

Although this number rose three percent from last year and four percent from 1996, Election Committee Chairman and YCC Vice President Charles Rink '98 said this year's

turnout was lower than he expected.

"I expected slightly more students to participate in the election because there were more [presidential] candidates," Rink said.

With six students running for president, Rink suspected the high number of candidates might have generated more support from fellow classmates.

For those that did vote, however, their choice was quite clear. For the first time in many years, the election will not be followed by a run-off among the leading candidates. To win the election, a candidate must beat the leading contender by more than 5 percent, otherwise the YCC conducts a runoff.

Working with Kaufman next year will be Vice President Fawzi Jumean '00, Secretary Hilary Marston '00, Treasurer Melissa Milazzo '00, and Undergraduate Office of Funding Committee Chair Adiya Dixon '00.

In each of the races with more

than two candidates, the winner beat out his or her opposition by more than 100 percent.

Students said that the five candidates' sweep this year indicates that the student body has great confidence in its newly elected officers.

"The incoming board is one of the most talented, dedicated, and experienced group of leaders to assume officership positions of the YCC," outgoing president Kimberly Taylor '99 said.

The new board met for lunch on Friday shortly after the election results were announced.

"It was clear from that that we are all ready to work really hard next year," Marston said.

The new officers, all with YCC experience, have worked together in the past and said they feel very confident in the group dynamic.

With 11 terms of YCC service among them, the new crop of officers

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is among the most experienced in recent years. Last year's board entered with five terms, three of which were served by Taylor.

Marston said that the group will start working during the summer to avoid any lag time at the start of the fall semester.

If the campaign is any indication of dedication and enthusiasm, the '98-'99 YCC officers should hit the

ground running in August.

"I gave everything I had to this campaign," Jumean said.

In the days preceding and during the election, Jumean gave up class, sleep and food. He solicited in each of the dining halls, knocked on every door in Silliman College, and stood on Cross Campus for 8 hours.

The candidates agreed that meeting students and giving them a face to associate with a name was one of the most important aspects of the campaign.

"Talking to people made a huge difference," Marston said.